PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Yoshihisa NAGASHIMA

Appln. No.: 10/015,881

Confirmation No.: 7280

Filed: December 17, 2001

Docket No: Q67742

Group Art Unit: 2627

Examiner: Minerva RIVERO

For: MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS TERMINAL, VOICE RECOGNITION METHOD FOR SAME, AND RECORD MEDIUM STORING PROGRAM FOR VOICE RECOGNITION

EXCESS CLAIM FEE PAYMENT LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

An Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 is attached hereto for concurrent filing in the above-identified application. The resulting excess claim fee has been calculated as shown below:

	After Amendment		Highest No. Previously Paid For						
All Claims	48	-	36	=	12	X	$50.00	=	$600.00
Independent	6	-	6	=	0	X	$200.00	=	$.00
					TOTAL			=	**$600.00**

Authorization to charge the statutory fee of $600.00 is submitted along with this electronic filing. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
GROUP 2627
PATENT APPLICATION

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In re application of	Docket No: Q67742
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For: MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS TERMINAL, VOICE RECOGNITION METHOD FOR SAME, AND RECORD MEDIUM STORING PROGRAM FOR VOICE RECOGNITION

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

MAIL STOP AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 29, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows on the accompanying pages.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A mobile communications terminal comprising:

a voice pattern registration means for storing voice patterns in a memory and registering the voice patterns that have been stored in the memory with a plurality of directories, wherein each directory of said plurality of directories is registered with a corresponding voice pattern stored in the memory, each directory including a plurality of contact data types, the plurality of contact data types comprising telephone number contact data and at least one other type of contact data;

a speech recognition means for retrieving a registered voice pattern among the voice patterns stored in the memory that matches or nearly matches voice data obtained from a user; and

a memory search processing means for selecting a directory that corresponds to the voice pattern retrieved by the speech recognition means.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of contact data types comprises telephone number contact data, electronic mail address contact data and URL (Uniform Resource Locator) contact data.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a data type designation means for designating the type of contact data to be used for communication based on a user input of a contact data type.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the memory search processing means automatically designates the type of contact data to be used for communication based on an application activation status of the mobile communications terminal.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a display means for displaying contact data of the directory which is selected by the memory search processing means.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a communication starting means for automatically starting communication with a contact corresponding to the directory which is selected by the memory search processing means.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A mobile communications terminal comprising:

a voice pattern registration means for storing voice patterns in a memory and registering the voice patterns that have been stored in the memory with a plurality of contact data, said plurality of contact data comprising a plurality of types of contact data, wherein for each type of contact data, a voice pattern stored in the memory is registered with a corresponding contact data item independent of other contact data types;

a data type designation means for designating the type of contact data to be selected for communication;

a speech recognition means for retrieving a voice pattern among the voice patterns stored in the memory that matches or nearly matches voice data obtained from a user; and

a memory search processing means for selecting a contact data item of the type designated by the data type designation means that corresponds to the voice pattern retrieved by the speech recognition means.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 7, wherein the plurality of contact data types comprises telephone number contact data, electronic mail address contact data and URL (Uniform Resource Locator) contact data.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 7, wherein the data type designation means designates the type of contact data based on a user input of contact data type.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 7, wherein the data type designation means automatically designates the type of contact data based on an application activation status of the mobile communications terminal.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 7, further comprising a display means for displaying the contact data item which is selected by the memory search processing means.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 7, further comprising a communication starting means for automatically starting communication with a contact corresponding to the contact data item which is selected by the memory search processing means.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A speech recognition method for a mobile communications terminal, comprising the steps of:

a voice pattern registration step in which voice patterns are stored in a memory and a plurality of directories are registered with the voice patterns that have been stored in the memory, wherein each directory of said plurality of directories is registered with a corresponding voice pattern stored in the memory, each directory including a plurality of contact data types, the plurality of contact data types comprising telephone number contact data and at least one other type of contact data;

a speech recognition step in which a registered voice pattern among the voice patterns stored in the memory is retrieved that matches or nearly matches voice data obtained from a user; and

a memory search step in which a directory is selected that corresponds to the voice pattern retrieved in the speech recognition step.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A speech recognition method for a mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 13, wherein the plurality of contact data types comprises telephone number contact data, electronic mail address contact data and URL (Uniform Resource Locator) contact data.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A speech recognition method for a mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a data type designation step in which the type of contact data to be used for communication is designated based on a user input of a contact data type.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A speech recognition method for a mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 13, wherein in the memory search step, the type of contact data to be used for communication is automatically designated based on an application activation status of the mobile communications terminal.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A speech recognition method for a mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a display step in which contact data of the directory which is selected in the memory search step is displayed.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A speech recognition method for a mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a communication starting step in which communication with a contact corresponding to the directory which is selected in the memory search processing step is automatically started.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A speech recognition method for a mobile communications terminal, comprising the steps of:

a voice pattern registration step in which voice patterns are stored in a memory and the voice patterns that have been stored are registered with a plurality of contact data, said contact data comprising a plurality of contact data types, wherein for each type of contact data, a voice pattern stored in the memory is registered with a corresponding contact data item independent of other contact data types;

a data type designation step in which the type of contact data to be selected for communication is designated;

a speech recognition step in which a voice pattern among the voice patterns stored in the memory that matches or nearly matches voice data obtained from a user is retrieved; and

a memory search step in which a contact data item of the type designated in the data type designation step that corresponds to the voice pattern retrieved in the speech recognition step is selected.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A speech recognition method for a mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 19, wherein the plurality of contact data types comprises telephone number contact data, electronic mail address contact data and URL (Uniform Resource Locator) contact data.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A speech recognition method for a mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 19, wherein the type of contact data is designated based on a user input of contact data type in the data type designation step.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A speech recognition method for a mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 19, wherein the type of contact data is automatically designated based on an application activation status of the mobile communications terminal in the data type designation step.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A speech recognition method for a mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 19, further comprising a display step in which the contact data item which is selected in the memory search step is displayed.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A speech recognition method for a mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 19, further comprising a communication starting step in which communication with a contact corresponding to the contact data item which is selected in the memory search step is automatically started.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A machine-readable medium storing a program for instructing a processor of a mobile communications terminal to execute a speech recognition process, wherein the speech recognition process comprises the steps of:

a voice pattern registration step in which voice patterns are stored in a memory and a plurality of directories are registered with the voice patterns that have been stored in the memory, wherein each directory of said plurality of directories is registered with a corresponding voice pattern stored in the memory, each directory including a plurality of contact data types, the plurality of contact data types comprising telephone number contact data and at least one other type of contact data;

a speech recognition step in which a registered voice pattern among the voice patterns stored in the memory is retrieved that matches or nearly matches voice data obtained from a user; and

a memory search step in which a directory is selected that corresponds to ~~to~~ the voice pattern retrieved in the speech recognition step.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A machine-readable medium as claimed in claim 25, wherein the plurality of contact data types comprises telephone number contact data, electronic mail address contact data and URL (Uniform Resource Locator) contact data.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A machine-readable medium as claimed in claim 25, wherein the speech recognition process further comprises a data type designation step in which the type of contact data to be used for communication is designated based on a user input of a contact data type.

Claim 28 (previously presented): A machine-readable medium as claimed in claim 25, wherein in the memory search step, the type of contact data to be used for communication is automatically designated based on an application activation status of the mobile communications terminal.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A machine-readable medium as claimed in claim 25, wherein the speech recognition process further comprises a display step in which contact data of the directory which is selected in the memory search step is displayed.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A machine-readable medium as claimed in claim 25, wherein the speech recognition process further comprises a communication starting step in which communication with a contact corresponding to the directory which is selected in the memory search processing step is automatically started.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A machine-readable medium storing a program for instructing a processor of a mobile communications terminal to execute a speech recognition process, wherein the voice recognition process comprises the steps of:

a voice pattern registration step in which voice patterns are stored in a memory and the voice patterns that have been stored are registered with a plurality of contact data, said contact data comprising a plurality of contact data types, wherein for each type of contact data, a voice pattern stored in the memory is registered with a corresponding contact data item independent of other contact data types;

a data type designation step in which the type of contact data to be selected for communication is designated;

a speech recognition step in which a voice pattern among the voice patterns stored in the memory that matches or nearly matches voice data obtained from a user is retrieved; and

a memory search step in which a contact data item of the type designated in the data type designation step that corresponds to the voice pattern retrieved in the speech recognition step is selected.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A machine-readable medium as claimed in claim 31, wherein the plurality of contact data types comprises telephone number contact data, electronic mail address contact data and URL (Uniform Resource Locator) contact data.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A machine-readable medium as claimed in claim 31, wherein the type of contact data is designated based on a user input of contact data type in the data type designation step.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A machine-readable medium as claimed in claim 31, wherein the type of contact data is automatically designated based on an application activation status of the mobile communications terminal in the data type designation step.

Claim 35 (previously presented): A machine-readable medium as claimed in claim 31, wherein the speech recognition process further comprises a display step in which the contact data item which is selected in the memory search step is displayed.

Claim 36 (previously presented): A machine-readable medium as claimed in claim 31, wherein the speech recognition process further comprises a communication starting step in which communication with a contact corresponding to the contact data item which is selected in the memory search step.

Claim 37 (new): A mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the memory that stores the voice patterns, which are registered with the plurality of directories, is provided in the mobile communications terminal.

Claim 38 (new): A mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the voice patterns, which are registered with the plurality of directories, are recorded from speech of the user and stored in the memory.

Claim 39 (new): A mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 7, wherein the memory that stores the voice patterns, which are registered with the plurality of directories, is provided in the mobile communications terminal.

Claim 40 (new): A mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 7, wherein the voice patterns, which are registered with the plurality of contact data, are recorded from speech of the user and stored in the memory.

Claim 41 (new): A speech recognition method for a mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 13, wherein the memory that stores the voice patterns, which are registered with the plurality of directories, is provided in the mobile communications terminal

Claim 42 (new): A speech recognition method for a mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 13, wherein the voice patterns, which are registered with the plurality of directories, are recorded from speech of the user and stored in the memory.

Claim 43 (new): A speech recognition method for a mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 19, wherein the memory that stores the voice patterns, which are registered with the plurality of directories, is provided in the mobile communications terminal.

Claim 44 (new): A speech recognition method for a mobile communications terminal as claimed in claim 19, wherein the voice patterns, which are registered with the plurality of contact data, are recorded from speech of the user and stored in the memory.

Claim 45 (new): A machine-readable medium as claimed in claim 25, wherein the memory that stores the voice patterns, which are registered with the plurality of directories, is provided in the mobile communications terminal.

Claim 46 (new): A machine-readable medium as claimed in claim 25, wherein the voice patterns, which are registered with the plurality of directories, are recorded from speech of the user and stored in the memory.

Claim 47 (new): A machine-readable medium as claimed in claim 31, wherein the voice patterns, which are registered with the plurality of contact data, are recorded from speech of the user and stored in the memory.

Claim 48 (new): A machine-readable medium as claimed in claim 31, wherein the voice patterns, which are registered with the plurality of contact data, are recorded from speech of the user and stored in the memory.

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present Amendment, claims 1-48 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 25 and 31 are amended, and new claims 37-48 are added. No new matter is presented.

Dealing with preliminary matters first, Applicant notes the Examiner's remarks regarding the "faded text and small font size" in the previous Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, filed January 4, 2006, and the Examiner's request for a substitute Amendment. Initially, Applicant notes that the faded text and small font size was apparently the result of the facsimile transmission of the previous Amendment for filing. However, as requested, Applicant submits herewith a copy of the previous Amendment, as filed, for entry into the record of the present Application so as to provide a more legible copy of the claim amendments and remarks made.

To summarize the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-4, 6, 7, 13, 19, 25 and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Lim et al. (U.S. Patent 6,477,240, hereinafter "Lim"), claims 2, 8, 14, 20, 26 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lim in view of Lund (U.S. Patent

No. 5,978,806), and claims 5, 11, 17, 23, 29 and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lim in view of Kowalski (U.S. Patent No. 5,095,503).[1]

Each of the outstanding rejections are traversed and addressed as follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

As noted above, claims 1, 3-4, 6, 7, 13, 19, 25 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Lim. Applicant respectfully traverses and submits that Lund fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of these claims, as evidenced by the following.

Independent claims 1, 13, and 25

With respect to claim 1, a mobile communications terminal is defined, comprising, *inter alia*, a voice pattern registration means for storing voice patterns in a memory and registering the voice patterns that have been stored in the memory with a plurality of directories, wherein each directory of the plurality of directories is registered with a corresponding voice pattern stored in the memory, each directory including a plurality of contact data types, the plurality of contact data types comprising telephone number contact data and at least one other type of contact data. Claim 1 further defines a speech recognition means for retrieving a registered voice pattern

[1] Applicant notes that although the Office Action Summary indicates that claims 1-36 have been rejected, dependent claims 9-10, 12, 15-16, 21-22, 27-28, 30, 33-34 and 36 are not mentioned in the grounds of rejection.

among the voice patterns stored in the memory that matches or nearly matches voice data obtained from a user, and a memory search processing means for selecting a directory that corresponds to the voice pattern retrieved by the speech recognition means.

Notwithstanding the Examiner's rejection of claim 1, Applicant submits that Lim fails to teach or suggest *at least* the voice pattern registration means, as claimed, which stores voice patterns in a memory and registering the voice patterns that have been stored in the memory with a plurality of directories, wherein each directory of said plurality of directories is registered with a corresponding voice pattern stored in the memory.

For instance, Lim teaches a method for creating an end-to-end connection between a telephone and a communication device in which a unified messaging system receives verbal input from a user, voice recognition is performed on the verbal input, and an action word is detected from the verbal input after performing the voice recognition. *See* Lim at col. 3, line 64 - col. 4, line 21. As shown in Figure 1, Lim teaches that unified messaging system 101 is accessed by a user from a remotely located computer 100. *See* Lim at col. 6, lines 40-56. Further, the unified messaging system includes web server 122, email server 124, and telephony server 126. *See* Lim at col. 8, line 3 - col. 9, line 3.

However, according to Lim, telephony server 126 includes hardware or software to perform voice recognition by recognizing human voice and transcribing the spoken words into digital data in which voice-based commands are detected in order to determine whether to initiate communication as a telephone call or sending an email, a page, or a facsimile. *See* Lim

at col. 9, lines 19-38 and col. 10, line 45 - col. 11, line 37. For example, as described by Lim, in the case of making a telephone call, a remote user speaks a voice command (e.g., "CALL Thinklink") and the telephony server performs voice recognition to determine which server (e.g., outbound page server, outbound fax server, outbound email server, etc.) and contact information e.g., contact data for "Thinklink") should be employed to initiate the requested communication. *See* Lim at col. 12, line 2-41. Further, the voice commands may be more complex, such as "CALL MICHAEL SMITH AT HOME AND AT WORK", in which the telephony server performs voice recognition on the spoken command, determines the appropriate action (i.e., telephone call) and retrieves the appropriate contact data (i.e., home and work numbers for contact Michael Smith). *See* Lim at col. Col. 13, lines 3-28 and col. 14, lines 28-38.

In contrast, claim 1 recites a voice pattern registration means which both stores voice patterns in a memory and also registers the voice patterns that have been stored in the memory with a plurality of directories, wherein each directory of said plurality of directories is registered with a corresponding voice pattern stored in the memory. Lim fails to suggest such a feature because, as taught by Lim, the remotely located user simply speaks a command and a speech recognition process, such as the speech-to-text programs Via Voice or Dragon Dictate, which are executed by the telephony server, parses the command to determine an action command and other data, such as the name of the contact, with the command spoken by the user. *See* Lim at col. 9, lines 4-38.

Lim does not, however, teach that voice patterns themselves are ***stored in memory and registered with directories***, as claimed, nor does Lim suggest a speech recognition means, as defined by claim 1, that ***retrieves a registered voice pattern*** among the voice patterns stored in the memory that matches or nearly matches voice data obtained from a user. As noted above, Lim merely teaches that speech recognition is performed to determine the action command and other data.

Accordingly, Lim fails to suggest all the features of claim 1, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested. Further, Applicant submits that independent claims 13 and 25, which respectively define a speech recognition method for a mobile communications terminal and a machine-readable medium storing a program for instructing a processor of a mobile communications terminal to execute a speech recognition process reciting analogous features as in claim 1, are allowable for comparable reasons as those discussed above. Allowance of claims 13 and 25 is therefore requested.

In addition, Applicant submits that claims 2-6, 14-17, 26-30, 37-38, 41-42, and 45-46 are allowable at least by virtue of depending from claims 1, 13, and 25, respectively.

Independent claims 7, 19, and 31

With respect to claim 7, a mobile communications terminal is defined, comprising, inter alia, a voice pattern registration means for storing voice patterns in a memory and registering the

voice patterns that have been stored in the memory with a plurality of contact data, the plurality of contact data comprising a plurality of types of contact data, wherein for each type of contact data, a voice pattern stored in the memory is registered with a corresponding contact data item independent of other contact data types. Claim 7 additionally recites the features of a data type designation means for designating the type of contact data to be selected for communication, and a speech recognition means for retrieving a voice pattern among the voice patterns stored in the memory that matches or nearly matches voice data obtained from a user. Further, claim 7 recites a memory search processing means for selecting a contact data item of the type designated by the data type designation means that corresponds to the voice pattern retrieved by the speech recognition means.

Notwithstanding the Examiner's rejection, Applicant submits that Lim fails to suggest *at least* the features of a voice pattern registration means, as claimed, which stores voice patterns in a memory and registers the voice patterns that have been stored in the memory with a plurality of contact data, wherein for each type of contact data, a voice pattern stored in the memory is registered with a corresponding contact data item independent of other contact data types. For instance, as discussed above, Lim merely teaches the remotely located user speaks a command and a speech recognition process, such as the speech-to-text programs Via Voice or Dragon Dictate, which are executed by the telephony server, parses the command to determine an action command and other data, such as the name of the contact, with the command spoken by the user. *See* Lim at col. 9, lines 4-38.

Thus, Lim fails to suggest storing voice patterns in a memory, as claimed, or the claimed registration of voice patterns that have been stored with a plurality of contact data. Consequently, Lim further fails to suggest the feature of speech recognition means that retrieve a voice pattern among the voice patterns stored in the memory that matches or nearly matches voice data obtained from a user.

As evidenced by the foregoing, Lim fails to teach or suggest all the features of claim 7, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested. Further, Applicant submits that independent claims 19 and 31, which respectively define a speech recognition method for a mobile communications terminal and a machine-readable medium storing a program for instructing a processor of a mobile communications terminal to execute a speech recognition process reciting analogous features as in claim 7, are allowable for comparable reasons as those discussed above. Allowance of claims 19 and 31 is therefore requested.

In addition, Applicant submits that claims 8-12, 20-23, 32-36, 39-40, 43-44 and 47-48 are allowable at least by virtue of depending from claims 7, 19, and 31, respectively.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2, 8, 14, 20, 26 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lim in view of Lund, and claims 5, 11, 17, 23, 29 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lim in view of Kowalski. Without

commenting substantively, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable at least by virtue of depending from claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 25 and 31, respectively, and by virtue of the features recited therein.

New Claims

In order to provide additional claim coverage merited by the scope of the invention, Applicant is adding new claims 37-48. Applicant submits that claims 37-48 are allowable at least by virtue of depending from claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 25 and 31, respectively, and by virtue of the features recited therein.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
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